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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

Report by the Secretary-General

1. At its fiftieth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1994/18, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief", in which it reiterated its invitation to the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief in all the official languages of the United Nations and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use by United Nations information centres, as well as by other interested bodies.

2. In paragraph 16 of the resolution, the Commission on Human Rights recommended that the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion be given appropriate priority in the work of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights. In this connection, during the current year the programme of advisory services of the Centre for Human Rights has remained attentive to possible requests for assistance by Governments with a view to improving the implementation of the Declaration. However, no such request has been submitted by a Government during this period.

3. Concerning paragraph 21 of the resolution, in which the Commission on Human Rights invited non-governmental organizations to consider what further contribution they could make to the implementation and dissemination of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of

Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights has been informed of a particularly interesting initiative taken by the International Association for Religious Freedom, a non-governmental organization which has begun to publish the Declaration in poster form for distribution in all places of worship of all denominations, in the appropriate languages.

4. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 23 of the resolution, in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance and resources to the Special Rapporteur during the current period, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of religious intolerance received logistic assistance and support from the Centre for Human Rights, despite the financial difficulties affecting the fulfilment of the mandate entrusted to him. His report is contained in document E/CN.4/1995/91.

5. The present report is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 24, in which the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to report to it on measures taken to implement the aforementioned resolution.